



Dedicated to the Ideals and Comradeship
We knew in Wars and Peace and in
Our services both Home and Abroad.



THE GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

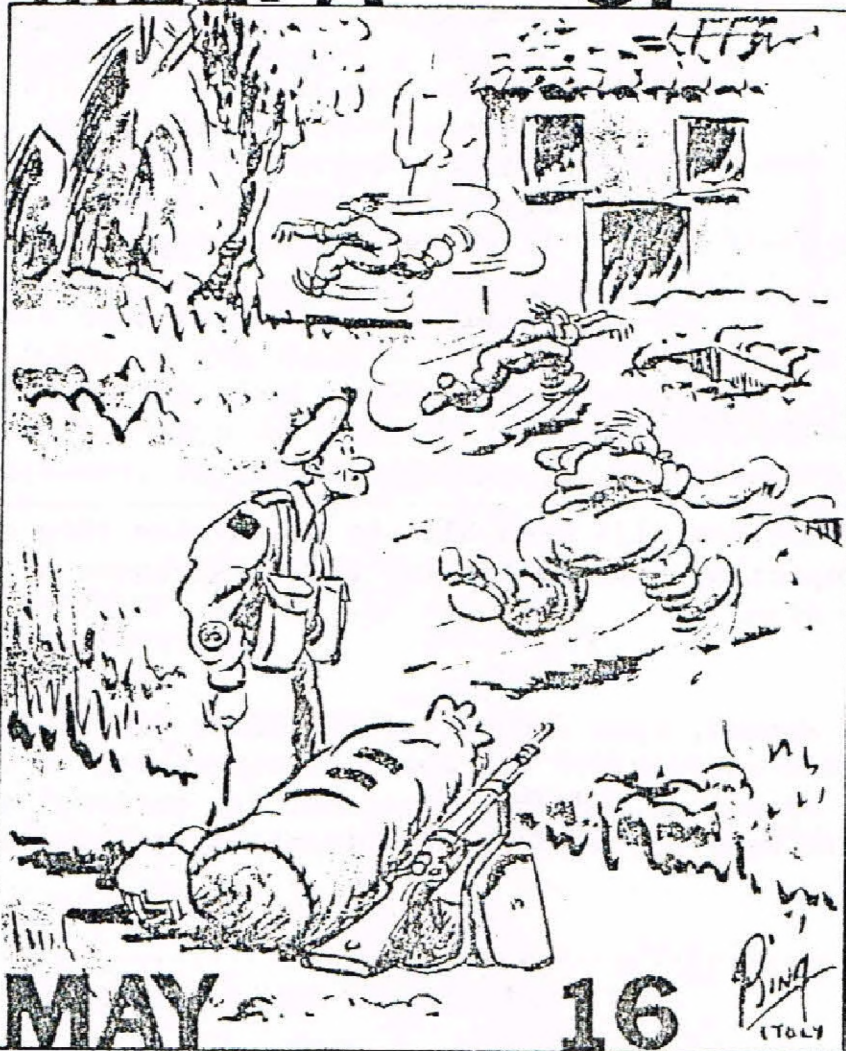
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8

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MAY/JUNE 1987

MELFA 87



MAY 16

HERE COMES A MOANIN' WHAT??

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THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1987 - 1988

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Stan MOORHOUSE (Ex-Officio)	704-700 Hamilton, New Westminster V3M 2M6	522-3507

SICK AND VISITING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - Stan Conway 936-7071

Stan and his committee will need all the assistance they can get. Any information respecting hospitalization and/or sickness of a member should be reported to Stan.

EDITOR

Ron Hurley has agreed, upon request of President elect Bruce Eaton and the unanimous approval of his Board of Directors, to continue pro-tem to act as Editor. He has declined, for personal reasons, to accept an appointment to the Board of Directors at this time.

C.O.'s REP.

Martin Hilmer.....574-3289



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To put it mildly we have gone through a turbulent year and it came as a surprise to have both myself and Doug Glenn elected by acclamation as President and Vice-President.

Through this and the election of the majority of the slate as proposed by the nominating committee we feel the coming year holds much promise for the association to achieve its aims as stated on our membership card.

We hope the differences which exist over the location and operation of the museum will be closer to being resolved by the time the year is over.

My objective for the year will be to restore the good relationship between the association and the regiment and to establish an environment for the gradual take over of the association by the younger generation. We old sweats of 1939-1945 are fast fading away and for the association to continue and prosper the new young bloods must start to take over. I believe we will be happy to see this happen and be able to gather socially to remember "the good old days" with no worries about maintaining our ideals and perpetuating the comradship which the association is dedicated to.

See you at the Melfa dinner and brunch May 16th and 17th.

Bruce Eaton

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION HELD ON THURSDAY 19 MARCH 1987 IN THE ARMOURY, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. AT 2000 HRS

PRESENT

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| S. Moorhouse, President | D. Glenn |
| B. Eaton Vice President | D. Gowler |
| N. McAskill Secretary | H. Hoskin |
| V. Ardagh Treasurer | W. Lyle |
| D. Adlem | E. Shannon |
| J. Ford | R. Shannon |
| A. Gibson | B. Morgan - Past President |

and 63 Members.

The meeting was called to order at 2030 hrs.



A minutes silence in memory of departed comrades was observed.

A roll call of officers of the Society was completed.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AG MEETING

It was duly moved and seconded that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in March 1986 be approved as circulated. CARRIED

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Vernon Ardagh presented the financial statement. It was duly moved and seconded that the financial statement be accepted as presented. CARRIED

BUDGET 1987

Vernon Ardagh presented the Budget for 1987. Jerry Gangur spoke concerning the involvement of the Deep Cove Yacht Club in the fund raising. It was duly moved and seconded that the Budget for 1987 be accepted as presented. CARRIED

MELFA 1986

The text of which was published verbatim in the September/October 1986 issue of The Groundsheet.

GROUNDSHEET

Ron Hurley gave his report on the Groundsheet.

Ron made the point that he has been a non executive member since 1975. He has shared the Editor's chair with Ed Shannon and Bert Hoskin since 1984. He has been the acting Editor since October 1986. Commitments were made to Bas Morgan and to Stan Moorhouse that he would continue until a replacement might be found. This commitment still stands. He paid tribute to his assistant Editor and his wife Ruth for her assistance in the typing, writing, editing and mailing. He further stated that it had been his choice to produce the Groundsheet on an ex-officio basis without holding executive office. He reiterated that it was his wish to continue as is. Current facts concerning the Groundsheet are-

Printing	650 copies
Mailing	550 to 580 copies
Postage	12 pages - .34¢
Issues	no less than 3 per year
Printing costs	Currently approx \$200.00 per issue

Ron expressed his appreciation to all who have assisted and for the many commendations afforded him including the small amount of flak which comes the way of all Editors.

It was moved and seconded that the Groundsheet report be accepted as presented. CARRIED



COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

I, Col. Bradford gave a brief report on the current status of the Regiment. The main points were that the Regiment is up to strength with 135 all ranks. Parachute training is at the forefront although the aircraft availability to do the actual jumps is somewhat spotty. The Band is now turned out in completely new uniforms thanks to the efforts of many concerning the provision of funding.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the CO's report be accepted as presented.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Bert Hoskin gave the Museum Committee Report.

I am pleased to report that thanks to the members of the Museum Committee and to some 40 volunteers we were able to open the Museum five days per week, Monday to Friday as our contribution to Expo 86. We have reverted to our normal two days and one evening for the balance of the year to at least June 1987 thanks mainly to staffing by the Museum Committee.

We are in a financially sound position, and need only additional volunteers to bring the display of our artifacts up to a more exciting and informative layout.

Finally, with regard to the Special Museum Committee, and in accordance with its mandate, the committee reports that at the end of June or before the SMC will do everything in its power to give to the President of the Society a firm proposal concerning the future of the collection.

Bert Hoskin moved that his report be accepted as delivered. It was seconded and CARRIED

Bas Morgan requested permission to speak.

He referred to his proposal which he had forwarded to the Executive but has been tabled by them until the AGM. He was granted permission, and spoke at length. At the conclusion he moved "THAT THE MUSEUM IS PROPERLY THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER AND THE LOWER MAINLAND. THEREFORE WE ARE GOING TO STAY IN NEW WESTMINSTER, OUR HISTORICAL CENTRE, WHERE WE STARTED AND WHERE WE BELONG." it was seconded.

SMOKER REPORT

Walter Lyle submitted his report on the Smoker held on 6 Dec 1986. Attendance was less than 30. The participants enjoyed clam chowder and good fellowship. The five door prizes were won by Mike Dragan, Gord Finlayson, John Ford, Glen Holling and Stan Drummond.

It was moved, seconded and carried the report be accepted as presented.



TRUSTEES REPORT

Allan Coe submitted the Trustee Report for 1986.

Trustees: Allan Coe -Chairman
 P.A. McCarthy
 H.A. Stephens

As of December 31, 1986, the funds administered by the trustees were as follows:

Museum Trust Fund	\$ 10,000.00
Commanding Officers Trust	10,000.00
Groundsheet Trust Fund	<u>4,608.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 24,608.00</u>

Interest paid on these trusts and credited to the Association account #500697 in the year 1986 amounted to \$1,838.04

We the Trustees respectfully recommend your acceptance of this report.
Allan Coe, Chairman.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Trustees report be accepted as presented.

Verg Ardagh made a motion "THAT THE CO OF THE REGIMENT WRITE A LETTER TO THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER STATING THAT THE REGIMENT NO LONGER REQUIRES A VETO IN ANY ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE ASSOCIATION REGARDING THE FUTURE LOCATION OF THE MUSEUM" seconded by Walter Lyle. The motion was defeated.

EXECUTIVE 1987

Balloting took place and the results are listed in the MAY/JUNE 1987 Groundsheet.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 22:30 hours.

Condensed By
N. McAskill, Secretary
D. Adlem

They can say all they want about
being over the hill. It still
beats being under it.



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1987

Well, the 1987 AGM is now history, "The tumult and shouting dies. The captains and the Kings depart" as I believe Kipling expressed, and the battlefield has been cleared.

There was some pretty frank and open talk between the members of the Association and the Unit, and we now can be thankful we are off to a new understanding.

With one exception, the Executive comprises our old 1946 members and we trust we will increasingly be joined by dedicated members who have served with the post war unit, for this is the only way our Association can survive, and in the long run is inevitable.

Specifically, the Active Unit now understands that there is a bond that exists between men who have been together for some six years, who have fought and in many cases died together, hence our fierce insistence on the Autonomy of the Association within the larger Regimental family. We on the other hand, time wise, must understand that to maintain continuity we must welcome their entry (new blood) into the Association. The Unit, too, recognizes that it has not been "pulling its weight" and has graciously said so.

With respect to the Museum, the Special Museum Committee has completed its report to the Museum Committee and Executive Committee. We have since June 17, 1985, searched diligently and unceasingly for a solution to our goal of ensuring in perpetuity the integrity of our collection and archives. We have not achieved our objective, and offered the following proposal to the two senior committees and obtained their approval, subject to ratification at the 1988 AGM.

- *To recognize that in view of the age, health of the Museum and Special Committees we have done all we can and cannot continue;
- *That neither the Association, nor the Unit, nor the City can in isolation find a solution to our problem;
- *That we turn over custody of the Museum to the Regiment who have guaranteed they, with the City, will actively pursue our objective;
- *To provide an initial \$350 grant to the Regiment, toward a first 1987 operating budget of \$4,000 already approved by the Museum Committee;
- *To transfer the funds remaining in the Museum chequing and savings accounts to the Association account;



*To leave long term museum planning with the Regiment and City, and to concentrate all our efforts to the Association and ALL it's members;

*To disband the Special and Museum Committees with effect April 30, 1987.

No one should, in any way, look on this as a defeat, for the major success we achieved at the Annual General Meeting 1987, was that by a overwhelming majority of our members and the gracious and considerable support by post W.W. 2 members substantiated that majority. We maintained control of the Executive, and have a new co-operative attitude on the part of the Active Unit. My thanks to all the old-timers who came back with me to re-activate the Museum Committee and carry on in spite of many obstacles.

Submitted

H.F. Hoskin
Chairman, SMC,MC

MELFA DINNER
MAY 16, 1987

Dinner ticket payments are due by May 1 1987.

No tickets will be sold at the door. Dining Room seating is limited to 150. To date 145 tickets have been sold.

Times of sands are running low.

Return all unsold draw tickets to: Doug Glenn
6666 Walker Ave.
Burnaby, B.C. V5E 3B9

TORONTO CHAPTER MELFA DINNER - 23rd MAY 1987


PLACE: Br 344 Royal Canadian Legion 'The Rifles Room'
1395 Lakeshore Blvd. West, Toronto, Ontario

RECEPTION: 6:45 - 7:30 PM - Dinner (Buffet)

All you westerners are cordially invited. Please let us know.

NOTE: Having attended a dinner there I can assure you will be warmly welcomed.

R.H.


COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Winter months have seen the successful completion of a Recruit Course, a TQI Infantryman Course and an Armoured Defence Gunners Course, the latter culminating in a week long gun camp at Yakima in Washington State.

Our 106mm Anti-Tank Guns can now only be fired in the dismounted role, as the jeeps which carried them for so many years have recently been scrapped.

The jeep replacement - the Iltis - cannot be adapted to mount the 106, so for the time being - and until a new anti-tank weapon becomes available - its back to digging holes in the ground for our Armoured Defence Platoon.

We have just started a new basic para training phase for our Airborne Platoon, required annually to maintain this sub-unit at full strength. Their tactical skills will be tested to the maximum over the Easter weekend when they will be providing the "enemy" for a Battalion exercise.

The Brigade exercise will be held in Wainwright again this year from 26 June to 5 July and will take the form of a Battle School designed primarily to sharpen our "advance to contact" and attacking skills. After Wainwright the usual Summer Area Rank and Trades Schools will be held in Vernon, Chilliwack and Nanaimo.

Rumour is rife that the forthcoming Government White Paper on Defence will contain much good news for the Militia. Expansion of the Reserves may well be high on the list of priorities for the future, which if translated into reality will be most welcome and long overdue.

As one of the strongest Militia Units in Canada, with a most distinguished record of achievement in recent years in terms of such National awards as the Gzowski Trophy etc., it is hoped that we shall receive due recognition in any plans for expansion. Who knows, with support from the right quarters we might again see Royal Westminster Regiment Companies at Mission, Abbotsford and Chilliwack in the not too distant future!

Its good to hear that the Melfa Dinner is a "sell-out" this year, which augurs well for the future of the Association. We look forward to having a number of soldiers from the Battalion join you on this occasion, and also to working with your Executive on plans to celebrate our 125th Anniversary in 1988.

1988 will be an important year for us all, as we hope to mark our Anniversary Year by exercising the freedoms of the Cities of New Westminster and Mission, and the District of Matsqui. In addition a

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number of other proposals are under review including a Trooping of the Colours or a sunset ceremony in New Westminster, the cutting of a record or taping our Band in concert, and the updating and re-printing of our Regimental History. If you have any ideas regarding a particular item you would like to see organized as part of our 125th Birthday celebrations please let the Editor of The Groundsheet know, so that he can bring it to the attention of the Executive.

Best wishes from the serving Battalion,

Chris Bradford
Lieutenant Colonel,
Commanding Officer

FROM THE POST:

Kind words and best wishes to all from Dan Nikiforuk of Peachland, B.C. ...From Peterborough Ontario dues and some most salutary remarks re The Groundsheet and the Association and it's Executive. Len Welch adds "Keep up the good work. I know it becomes increasingly difficult yet some people have to take office and we need you". Kind remarks indeed, Len. Dues and a request from loyal member Len Ralls. Your request has been answered, in writing, by Melfa Chairman Doug Glenn and we look forward to seeing you there ... More kind words from I. Tipping of Clarenceville, Quebec. Sorry to hear of your medical problems and we shall pass on your praiseworthy comments to Jack Laing. Dues from old friend Peter Adlem of Victoria, B.C. and thank you for sending Tom McCammon's dues and his and your best wishes ... From the distant shores of Nova Scotia another welcome word from long time member Geo. Bayne. We have not forgotten you George and, as always, your congratulatory remarks re The Groundsheet and the Association are most appreciated. C.L. Wilkins from Niton Jct. Alberta expresses his regrets re his non-attendance at 1987 Melfa but his dues and his ardent support of The Association are most appreciated ... From Cornwall, Ontario by way of W. Doug McNaughton some positive remarks re The Groundsheet and a vote of confidence for the Museum Committees and the Association. The Association Directors are grateful for your comments, Doug...Thanks to W.S. Hall of Langley for Dues and greetings. Glad you enjoyed your sojourn in the Sunny??South ...A further expression of confidence for the Association and specifically to Bert Hoskin, John Hou and Basil Morgan, from R. Caswell of Moose Jaw, Sask. Pleased that you look forward to your Groundsheet and trust the next edition may be less controversial to some...Herb Timpe writes to express his regrets that he will be unable to attend Melfa 87 but we all wish you well in your pending retirement after 39 years with the C.N.R. Your regards to Stan Conway are duly noted...H.S. Jones sends greetings from Maryfield, Sask. Sorry to hear of your Heart condition

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and trust things will improve for you soon...A heartfelt vote of confidence to Bert Hoskin and your complete backing of The Editor from Ted Burnby of Vernon, B.C. Your wishes of 100% are most appropos... Thanks to Lloyd Stuart of Ontario and much appreciation for the notification re death of W.A. Baughn. Always sad news to hear of the loss of an old comrade - and it seems ever increasing...Kind words from ex "C" Coy stalwart Walt Kearsley of Lindsay, Ontario. Thanks for the newspaper enclosure Walter and it was a personal delight to have met you in Holland in May of 1985...A short note from A. Guetre. Sorry to hear of your ill health but hang in there...A pleasure to hear from Gordon Radmore of Mission B.C. You have always been a member in good standing, Gordon, and we hope to see you down this way soon...Great to hear from E. Cousins of Abbotsford and glad to know that Johnny Blanchford is keeping you in touch...Thanks to Tony Waters of Kamloops and your kind remarks to Les Deane shall be delivered to him... A new address from Capt. D.A. Nicks 2CFFTS in Bushell Park Sask. Trust you will attain your wish to attend a future Officer's Mess Dinner. Your request shall be passed on to Col. Bradford...Pleased to hear you are coming Scotty Low and hit the practice tees right away...Best wishes and kind words from Al Pradine the perennial sunseeker. Sincerely hope you make the dinner, Al...Greetings and a change of address from Ernie Holland, now of White Rock, B.C...By way of Ontario dues and best wishes from Bill Dennis. Trust you can make it Bill. Also from Ontario a note from John Somers and sorry you won't be attending this year, John. Always good to hear from Pat McCarthy in Ontario and hope you can come our way this year... A short dispatch from old pal Ted Hammersley. Your memo re "The Bar" noted...From Brentwood Bay on Vancouver Island a few words from W. Shymkovich and we are grateful for your greetings...Long time old faithful Jim Walsh in Cranbrook, B.C. Sincere appreciation re your complimentary remarks re my editorship. Amateurish as it may be - I try my best...A short note from Lorne Atkinson of Okanagan Mission - sorry to hear of your wife's illness Lorne and hoping things will improve for you both - Dues, donations and some kind words from Bob Boyd and we look forward to your Melfa 87 visit...Sincere appreciation to Cecil Jeffries of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.A. Your kind remarks re the Museum and your visit of last September are most appreciated and your flattering references to the "Excellent Guides" is duly noted. A search of the daily registry of that time will produce the names of the guides and they will be advised of your kind thoughts..Another letter from Toronto stalwart Pat McCarthy..sorry to hear of your ill health Pat but appreciate your continuing co-operation. Your marked decrease in numbers of the Toronto Chapter (down to eleven from twenty-eight) is akin to the same depletion in the ranks of W.W. 2 members elsewhere. Your Toronto Melfa Dinner will be duly announced in this issue...Your determination to carry on until "At least two of us are left to sit down at a table"



IN MEMORIAM

Harold G. Fleming	47th Bn W.W. I and D.C.O.R. W.W. II
Lloyd MacLean	Westminster Regt (M) W.W. II
A.E. Gerow	" " " "
W.A. Baughn	" " " "
Matt. McEwan	" " " "
Tom Bryson	" " " "
Frank Pobst	" " " "
Henry Goertson	" " " "
Jack 'Ducky' Drake	" " " "

FROM THE POST (Cont'd)

is heartwarming and is a shining example to all of us to maintain the Association to its fullest.....

R.H.

820 Alice St.,
Cornwall, Ont. K6H 4S6
16 Feb. 1987

Dear Fellows:

Firstly congratulations to Ron Hurley for "telling it like it is" in The Groundsheet. The SMC has apparently done a good job but, human nature being what it is, there are always those sitting in the wings ready to criticize or take credit when they think the opportunity arises.

Secondly, I am returning my signed proxy as well as my cheque for \$10.00 to cover my dues.

Thirdly, I am also enclosing the stubs of the 2 Draw tickets as well as my cheque for \$20.00 to cover the cost. I was with "A" Co. at the Melfa, manning Maj. Mahony's scout car radio so had to remain with the vehicle. I have always planned to attend a Melfa Dinner but somehow my plans have never come to fruition but the day may yet come.

I look forward to the Groundsheet and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the loyal few who keep the Association together.

Yours Sincerely,

W. Doug McNaughton